

§ 14.51

date designated on the face of the permit. In no case will the permit be valid for more than 2 years from the date of issuance.

[45 FR 56673, Aug. 25, 1980; 45 FR 64953, Oct. 1, 1980, as amended at 61 FR 31869, June 21, 1996]

Subpart D [Reserved]

Subpart E—Inspection and Clearance of Wildlife

§ 14.51 Inspection of wildlife.

Subject to applicable limitations of law, Service officers and Customs officers may detain for inspection and inspect any package, crate, or other container, including its contents, and all accompanying documents, upon importation or exportation. The Director may charge reasonable fees, including salary, overtime, transportation and per diem of Service officers, for wildlife import or export inspections specially requested by the importer or exporter at times other than regular work hours or locations other than usual for such inspections at the port.

[45 FR 56673, Aug. 25, 1980; 45 FR 64953, Oct. 1, 1980, as amended at 50 FR 52889, Dec. 26, 1985]

§ 14.52 Clearance of imported wildlife.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this subpart, a Service officer must clear all wildlife imported into the United States prior to release from detention by Customs officers. A Service officer must clear all wildlife to be exported from the United States prior to the physical loading of the merchandise on a vehicle or aircraft, or the containerization or palletizing of such merchandise for export, unless a Service officer expressly authorizes otherwise. Such clearance does not constitute a certification of the legality of an importation or exportation under the laws or regulations of the United States.

(b) An importer/exporter or his/her agent may obtain clearance by a Service officer only at designated ports (§14.12), at border ports (§14.16), at special ports (§14.19), or at a port where importation or exportation is authorized by a permit issued under subpart C

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of this part. An importer/exporter must return forthwith any wildlife released without a Service officer's clearance or clearance by Customs for the Service under authority of §14.54 to a port where clearance may be obtained pursuant to this subpart.

(c) To obtain clearance, the importer, exporter, or the importer's or exporter's agent will make available to a Service officer or a Customs officer acting under §14.54:

(1) All shipping documents (including bills of lading, waybills and packing lists or invoices);

(2) All permits, licenses or other documents required by the laws or regulations of the United States;

(3) All permits or other documents required by the laws or regulations of any foreign country;

(4) The wildlife being imported or exported; and

(5) Any documents and permits required by the country of export or re-export for the wildlife.

[45 FR 56673, Aug. 25, 1980; 45 FR 64953, Oct. 1, 1980, as amended at 50 FR 52889, Dec. 26, 1985; 61 FR 31869, June 21, 1996]

§ 14.53 Detention and refusal of clearance.

(a) *Detention.* Any Service officer, or Customs officer acting under §14.54, may detain imported or exported wildlife and any associated property. As soon as practicable following the importation or exportation and decision to detain, the Service will mail a notice of detention by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the importer or consignee, or exporter, if known or easily ascertainable. Such notice must describe the detained wildlife or other property, indicate the reason for the detention, describe the general nature of the tests or inquiries to be conducted, and indicate that if the releasability of the wildlife has not been determined within 30 days after the date of the notice, or a longer period if specifically stated, that the Service will deem the wildlife to be seized and will issue no further notification of seizure.

(b) *Refusal of clearance.* Any Service officer may refuse clearance of imported or exported wildlife and any Customs officer acting under §14.54